

TOWN OF ROCKLAND

Board of Selectmen

Town Hall
242 Union Street
Rockland, Massachusetts 02370

MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN'S OPEN SESSION held on Monday, March 21, 2005 at 7:00 PM in the H. Bernard Monahan Memorial Room, Town Hall, 242 Union Street, Rockland, Massachusetts 02370.

ATTENDANCE: Chairman John R. Llewellyn, Esq., Lawrence J. Chaffee, Larry J. Ryan, Louis U. Valanzola and Keven D. Pratt.

Veteran's Agent Anton Materna led everyone in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

Steve MacDonald, VFW, decided to make a box for people to deposit their old flags in so they can be disposed of properly. He presented the box to the Selectmen for Rockland Town Hall. Mr. MacDonald and Mr. Materna complimented the Art Department at the Rockland High School for decorating this box.

Presentation: Selectmen presented Julie Smith a student at South Shore Vocational Technical High School a certificate for outstanding achievement for becoming *Student of the Year* at her school. She will go on to compete for a similar honor statewide.

A. MINUTES

1. January 18, 2005 – Executive Session

Motion: Mr. Pratt to approve – not to be released until all matters are settled

Second: Mr. Valanzola

Vote: 3-0-2

B. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. Town Administrator's Evaluation

Mr. Llewellyn – It has been brought to our attention that our administrator is severely underpaid in an analysis with other South Shore Communities. As a result Mr. Chaffee has created and circulated an evaluation form to Mr. Plante and all Selectmen to complete. We have completed those evaluations. Mr. Chaffee – Now that I have all the evaluations compiled we will come together for an overall rating. In viewing these evaluations he believes it was done fairly. Mr. Ryan complimented Mr. Chaffee on the evaluation form he created and commented on how difficult and demanding the job of Town Administrator is.

B. UNFINISHED BUSINESS (Continued)

1. Town Administrator's Evaluation

All evaluations will be scored (strengths & weaknesses) and each Selectman will sit down with Mr. Plante to discuss. Mr. Chaffee discussed all ten categories of the evaluation in detail. Mr. Llewellyn – After Mr. Chaffee has an opportunity to compile all the statistics we will put this on the agenda for the next meeting and go over the results.

2. Annual Auditor's Report – Rob Lynch

Mr. Lynch – I'm here to present the audit for FY 2004. This is the second year that the Town is required to implement the provisions of GASBY 34 which completely changed the financial reporting for the municipalities in the Commonwealth and across the nation. We had one qualification this year for the recording of the fixed assets of the Sewer Department -- that inventory has not been completed. One of the provisions of the new reporting model is to include the fixed assets in the financial statements and they have been included for the other departments in the Town but not for the Sewer Department. Based on the audit work it gives a true representation of the Town's condition. Over the past several years we have seen that the Town's financial condition is improving. You still have a ways to go and I would recommend that you continue to do what you have done the last couple of years (conservative budget estimates and try to save where you can). This is just a brief overview. Mr. Plante – Last year we intentionally did not do the fixed assets in the Sewer Department because of the situation down there. We have retained a consultant that will be going down there to do the fixed asset inventory. I will keep you apprised of that.

3. Approve Warrant for Town Meeting

Motion: Mr. Pratt to reopen Warrant for Special Town Meeting

Second: Mr. Chaffee

Vote: 5-0

Motion: Mr. Chaffee to add "Supplementing FY05 Health Ins. Budget"

From Treasurer/Board of Selectmen to Special Town Meeting Warrant

Second: Pratt

Vote: 5-0

Motion: Mr. Chaffee to close Warrant for Special Town Meeting

Second: Mr. Ryan

Vote: 5-0

Motion: Mr. Chaffee to reopen Warrant for Annual Town Meeting

Second: Mr. Pratt

Vote: 5-0

B. UNFINISHED BUSINESS (Continued)

Motion: Mr. Chaffee to submit an article to “Adopt Chapter 137, Section I Of Acts of 2003” by Selectmen/Veteran’s Agent to Annual Town Meeting Warrant

Second: Mr. Pratt

Vote: 5-0

Motion: Mr. Chaffee to close Warrant for Annual Town Meeting

Second: Mr. Valanzola

Vote: 5-0

Mr. Llewellyn is taking #5 under New Business out of order.

5. Re-Vote Budget Recommendations

Mr. Chaffee – A few weeks ago I put together salary comparisons of Town Administrators in 21 surrounding towns as you can see by looking at this our Town pays less than every single position. I think it’s time we try to come up with a comparable amount. We will get this money by taking it out of two accounts (Town Hall-Utilities/Maintenance & Supplies & Town Hall Supplies) through Brad’s and Mary Stewart’s conservation they were able to save money in these accounts. Even if Brad doesn’t keep this position and we try to hire someone off the street, it is unrealistic to think that someone would come in here for \$75,000. Mr. Chaffee gave examples of other TA’s salaries (\$102,000-Abington, 200,000-Easton, \$105,000-Hull, \$100,000-Hingham the only other TA salary closest to Brad’s is Whitman and that person has only been there two years and makes more than Brad.) My suggestion to the BOS would be \$85,000.00. Mr. Llewellyn commended Mr. Chaffee on his comparison and way to resolve this issue.

Motion: Mr. Chaffee to amend Line 5200 under Town Hall Utilities/Supplies/Maintenance from \$50,000 to \$40,500

Second: Mr. Ryan

Vote: 5-0

Motion: Mr. Chaffee to amend Line 5400 under Town Hall Supplies From \$7,500 to \$7,000

Second: Mr. Ryan

Vote: 5-0

Motion: Mr. Chaffee to 5100 Personnel – Board of Selectmen – Salary Town Administrator from \$72,100 to \$85,000

Second: Mr. Ryan

Vote: 4-1 (Mr. Valanzola opposed)

Mr. Valanzola – Questioned the \$14,000 “Salary-Part Time Clerk” for Board of Selectmen. Mr. Plante – That has been taken out, however, we would like to leave that line in there for the future.

B. UNFINISHED BUSINESS (Continued)

5. Re-Vote Budget Recommendations

Building Department Budget

Motion: Mr. Chaffee to approve bottom line of \$96,644.00 for Building Dept.

Second: Mr. Valanzola

Vote: 5-0

Sewer Department

Motion: Mr. Chaffee to approve bottom line of \$1,666,869.19 to be taken from estimated segregated sewer receipts under the Provisions of Chapter 338, Acts of 1913 for Sewer Department

Second: Mr. Ryan

Vote: 5-0

South Shore Regional

Motion: Mr. Chaffee to approve bottom line of \$885,256.00 for South Shore Regional Vocational

Second: Mr. Ryan

Vote: 5-0

Retirement Contribution – Department #911

Motion: Mr. Ryan to approve bottom line of \$1,685,226.00 for Retirement Contribution

Second: Mr. Valanzola

Vote: 5-0

Health Insurance – Depart. #914

Motion: Mr. Chaffee to approve bottom line of \$4,597,260.00 for Health Insurance

Second: Ryan

Vote: 5-0

Fire Department

Motion: Mr. Chaffee to approve \$2,529,976.00 (Sub-Total) for 5100 – Personnel for the Fire Department

Second: Mr. Pratt

Vote: 2-2-1 (Mr. Ryan & Mr. Llewellyn abstained, Mr. Valanzola-opposed)

Motion: Mr. Chaffee to approve bottom line of \$2,649,976.00 for Fire Dept.

Second: Mr. Pratt

Vote: 2-2-1 (Mr. Ryan & Mr. Llewellyn abstained, Mr. Valanzola-opposed)

B. UNFINISHED BUSINESS (Continued)

Mr. William Minahan from the Finance Committee spoke regarding looking at major cuts this year, possibly in the Fall. I don't feel this is the time to be giving out more raises and adding people on. These are going to be painful, painful cuts unless we do an override for this stuff. It's not going to be a good time. Mr. Plante – Mr. Minahan is making those comments not having all the facts relative to free cash and some other numbers that have recently come in that he is not aware of. Mr. Llewellyn- We did get a free cash number and it is better than we had expected. Mr. Minahan indicated that he had factored this information into his calculations. Chief Sammon hoped that public safety would be a top priority. Mr. Valanzola – Is concerned regarding the overtime – we just can't afford it. Of course public safety is important no one is disputing that, but the overtime has to be brought under control.

4. Approval Final Town Meeting Warrant

Mr. Ryan read articles for Special Town Meeting May 9, 2005

Motion: Mr. Ryan to accept the 22 articles for the Special Town Meeting Warrant as read

Second: Mr. Pratt

Vote: 5-0

BOS read articles of Annual Town Meeting May 9, 2005

Motion: Mr. Chaffee to accept the 62 articles for the Annual Town Meeting Warrant as read

Second: Mr. Valanzola

Vote: 5-0

C. NEW BUSINESS

1. School Committee Budget Presentation

Mr. Kerrigan gave a budget history. The fiscal 2006 budget would be \$17,694,896. A summary was given of cuts, maintenance issues, teacher concerns and issues, student ratios, etc.

Mr. Valanzola – From FY 01-06 your overall budget has only gone up 2%. We realize there has been a decline in student population. Mr. Kerrigan – We have been losing on the average “40ish” students a year. It is a good thing because if we were increasing with that number we would have to increase teaching staff. On the other hand your Chapter 70 money is based on enrollment. The good news is that our Chapter 70 money should remain stable this year. Mr. Valanzola thinks he's done a great job holding the line on the budget.

Mr. Ryan – Congratulates him on becoming superintendent. He appreciates all that the School Department has done.

C. NEW BUSINESS (Continued)

Mr. Pratt – Also congratulated the School Department on holding the line on the budget. I don't have any problem with this budget at all.

Mr. Kerrigan – We are trying and we are glad it shows.

Mr. Chaffee – Due to salary negotiations and contract negotiations we could be looking at cutting some time in the future as much as a million dollars. We can vote to forward this downstairs tonight but the reality is that we may be coming back. We are working on it to come up with some solutions, but I just wanted to throw that warning out. Mr. Kerrigan – we know you will do what you can. Mr. Chaffee – Right now it's too early to tell. The Governor gave us some favorable numbers but the House could turn it around and wash it away.

Motion: Mr. Chaffee to approve \$17,694,896 for School Budget

Second: Mr. Valanzola

Vote: 4-0-1 (Mr. Pratt abstained)

Mr. Plante – The only thing I wanted to say was that Mr. Chaffee made a key comment there. Last year we took a \$1.2 million dollar reduction in Chapter 70 which really hurt this Town. That was basically what put us in the hole we are in now. I feel it's very important that anyone who is so inclined should contact your State Representative and Senator and ask to support Rockland in Chapter 70 this year. We took the biggest hit on the South Shore and never got what we consider to be a reasonable explanation as to why. Please contact Representative Nymen and Senator Morrissey and let them know that Rockland needs whatever assistance they can give during the budget process.

Mr. Llewellyn appreciated the effort of the School Department and appreciated that everyone is working together.

Mark Norris (School Committee) – I also want to thank you for your support. Mr. Norris spoke on a \$29,000 to fund a feasibility study and plan for the middle school. Last year we were rejected for that money and we can't go forward without it. He is asking the BOS support at Town Meeting.

Mr. Valanzola – I did the funding for that...it might be available July 1, 2007.

Mr. Norris – We are in this position because we didn't have a plan ten years ago. You have to have people who are professionals doing feasibility studies. Our Finance Committee thought we could do this for free but you can't do a half hazard plan.

C. NEW BUSINESS (Continued)

2. Change of Manager – Supreme Deli

Mr. Roberts addressed the BOS as the new owners of Supreme Deli. His Wife, Alma manager on the Common Victualler License. They will have the same hours of operation. If they want to increase the hours they will have to come before the BOS again.

Motion: Mr. Pratt to approve Change of Manager @ Supreme Deli

Second: Mr. Ryan

Vote: 5-0

3. Approve Warrant for Town Election

Mr. Pratt read the Warrant for the Town Election to be held April 9, 2005 From 8:00AM – 8:00PM.

Motion: Mr. Pratt to approve Warrant for Town Election as read

Second: Mr. Ryan

Vote: 5-0

4. Re-appoint Inspector of Animals

Motion: Mr. Ryan to reappoint Patricia Whittemore

Second: Mr. Chaffee

Vote: 5-0

5. Declare Property Surplus - Park Department

The Park Department would like to declare their 1988 Chevy S10 Pickup as surplus equipment as it no longer runs and would cost too much to have it fixed.

Motion: Mr. Ryan to declare the Park Department's 1988 Chevy S10 Pickup surplus equipment

Second: Mr. Pratt

Vote: 5-0

6. Snow & Ice Update – Mr. Corvi

Mr. Corvi wished that he had been invited to the last meeting. He thought it was policy that no department was talked about unless the Department Head was present. The snow budget is over by \$500,000 this year. There are a lot of reasons why. We have been out over 30 times this year. Salt increased from \$30 a ton to \$47 a ton. Surrounding towns put 15 to 20 trucks out...we put out five (5). That is all the more trucks that we have to rent. We have

C. NEW BUSINESS (Continued)

6. Snow & Ice Update – Mr. Corvi (continued)

five guys we can't handle all this. To plow the sidewalks with one machine and one man it took five days @ 106 hours. We were taking the heat for the Town Hall not being plowed (Town Hall had a snow day). We do not plow the Town Hall...the School Department does. Removing snow from the Town's Center was addressed. Mr. Llewellyn spoke on the amount of money spent for snow removal. Mr. Plante is working on different ways to get assistance. Mr. Plante would like the BOS's permission to send a letter to the Governor requesting additional assistance.

Motion: Mr. Chaffee to allow the TA to send a letter to Governor Romney requesting assistance with funding for snow & ice removal for FY05

Second: Mr. Pratt

Vote: 5-0

Mr. Chaffee brought attention to the Snow and Ice Removal Expenditures Analysis issued by the Town Accountant. He also made mention regarding the complaints the BOS receives every year from a business in Rockland Center when snow removal is being done. It was suggested that maybe the next time he complains that the bank of snow should remain in front of his business and maybe then he will get the hint that the issue is public safety ... not selling beer.

Mr. Corvi – this is the first year that we had to haul snow out of the school. He wanted to thank the Park Department for all their help. They put in just as many hours as we did. Mr. Corvi also brought up a problem on Beech Street. The culvert has caved in. It's about a \$150,000 job. We are going to try to patch it my way, which would be about \$20,000. I'm going to try to leave the road open but I'm not promising anything. If we do have to close the road it will be closed for three days. It will be a big inconvenience for anyone living on Beech Street. We will start this job tomorrow morning. Residents are to be aware that there will be a delay with Fire and Police service during this repair.

7. Health Insurance Update – Mr. Pratt

Mr. Pratt would like the blessings from the BOS to do a comprehensive study - other options and alternatives for Health Insurance to make sure the Town of Rockland is getting the best deal. Mr. Llewellyn – considering this is the second biggest budget in the Town, I think any assistance we get would be a great idea. Mr. Plante – I would like to add that where this is headed we may actually find ourselves not being able to hire back everyone because of the health insurance. It's not just Rockland, it's every community in Massachusetts. It will eventually impact our ability to operate this Town. That is how significant it has become. Mr. Plante explained that Mr. Pratt has been doing a little "pre-work" on this and has had difficulty getting information. This vote would authorize him to use the Selectmen's stationary, therefore, he would be working for the BOS not as an individual person.

C. NEW BUSINESS (Continued)

7. Health Insurance Update – Mr. Pratt

Mr. Valanzola – Even if we don't find anything we will know we are getting the best deal we can.

Motion: Mr. Ryan to approve Mr. Pratt doing a comprehensive study using the Selectmen's Letterhead

Second: Mr. Valanzola

Vote: 4-1-0 (Mr. Pratt abstained)

D. TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Mr. Plante – The Town Hall would like to thank Larry and Mary Ryan for donating a new refrigerator for the employee lounge.

It has been past practice that the Selectmen have allowed the employee's at Town Hall a ½ day on Good Friday for religious purposes...we are bringing this to your attention tonight.

Motion: Mr. Pratt to approve ½ day for Good Friday

Second: Mr. Chaffee

Vote: 4-1 (Mr. Valanzola opposed)

Mr. Plante spent some time at the Fire Department – there are issues with the ladder truck which I believe have now been corrected. I wanted to thank Paul Dooley (Highway) and Firefighter Dan DelPrete for their help. Mr. Plante apologized to the Chief for breaking the hubcap. (Laughter)

On Tuesday, April 5th at 7:00PM there will be an Ethics Seminar at the Town Hall in the H. Bernard Monahan Memorial Room. I would like to invite the new candidates, Committee & Board Members and Department Head. This is also open to the public so I hope we have a good turnout.

I will be out on medical leave for a couple of weeks. I have made arrangements for people to contact me through email at my home.

I want to thank Mr. Llewellyn and Mr. Ryan for all their work. I think the Town of Rockland is far better for your service and wish you both luck in your future endeavors.

E. CORRESPONDENCE

American Red Cross - Thanking us for allowing them to come before you regarding our Heroes of Plymouth County event in July.

F. OPEN FORUM

Mr. Chaffee – Last week Mr. Plante, Mr. Llewellyn, Chief Sammon, Barry Ashton, Mark Norris and myself attended a mitigation meeting at SSTTDC talking about the money we would get from the Lennar Partners. Mr. Plante brought up one of the most important points of the whole night. What we are talking about at the air base is not mitigation (that is something they have to do) for the lack of a better term...it is bribe money...if you want to do it...this is what we want. We are looking at what Lennar has paid other cities they have developed and looking for comparable monies from them for this presentation up here. This will be an ongoing effort. We laid the ground work last meeting. Hopefully we will get what we need to keep our Town functioning.

Anyone who knows of soldiers coming home from Afghanistan or Iraq who have served in the battlefield, please contact us or Veterans Agent Tony Materna as we would like to honor them. We owe them a debt of gratitude for what they have done for us.

Mr. Ryan – I attended Bob Nyman's St. Patrick's Day Scholarship Drive in memory of his father (Howie Nyman). It was held at St. Colletta's in Hanover. He had a wonderful time and hopefully next year more people will attend and donate more money. The next meeting will be John and my last meeting. There are too many people to thank on TV for the nine years I've been here. I'm looking forward to my last meeting with mixed emotions (*somewhere been total joy and complete euphoria*)....laughter. I wanted to thank everyone for helping me out. I will be more specific next week.

Mr. Llewellyn – I want to say that Larry kind of stole my thunder here. We did attend the mitigation meeting last week. It was well attended. The meeting was brought together by Dr. John Rogers to come up with an idea to present to Lennar. I have to commend Brad because with all these people speaking up regarding Fire engines, police officers, manning levels etc....he spoke up and said we can't get into that stuff, ***we have to talk dollars and cents***. Suddenly the whole meeting just turned around, everyone agreed with him, and we started to move forward. We are going to meet again tomorrow night. Again, to Mr. Plante, I want to say A job well done. I want to also wish Brad good luck with his recovery.

Mr. Valanzola – A reminder that Town Election is coming up in a few weeks. Is it possible to update the sign out front? Mr. Plante – We already did. We couldn't get out there before because of the snow banks were too high.

Mr. Pratt – Wishes Mr. Plante a speedy recovery. He had this surgery ... you will be typing for quite some time and not doing too much talking. April 9th is Election Day....please get out and vote. You have more impact in a local election than you do in a national election. I had a chance to visit the middle school. The

F. OPEN FORUM (Continued)

Superintendent was not exaggerating when he described the conditions of this school. Please consider this when looking at the article for the middle school.

Mr. Valanzola – Please contact Mr. Mills on the School Committee – I believe he is still having tours at the middle school if anyone wants to see this for themselves.

Andy Triantaffelow – Spoke on public safety. It turns his stomach when people complain about the overtime on Fire and Police. The only solution I have for this whole thing is, Lou, that we shut the Fire Station down. When there is a fire let the house burn down. If your sick and need an ambulance ... don't call the Fire Department, drive yourself to the hospital. This is unbelievable what you are saying. Mr. Valanzola – We are talking about the overtime not public safety. I've never criticized the public safety in this Town they do an excellent job. We have to be able to afford it so we don't lay off anyone. It's unbelievable what you are saying CUT THE OVERTIME, HOW CAN YOU CUT THE OVERTIME! Mr. Llewellyn – Andy, let's not start an argument. This budget is going to be discussed Wednesday night at the Finance Committee. I think if you have questions on the details on it you should ask there. Andy – What is the solution though...you guys run the Town. Someone said I'm very outspoken...I don't know why. Mr. Ryan – There are union issues that have to be addressed when you are talking about budgets and these types of things. Those are left for Executive Session....a lot of things have to be worked out. Mr. Llewellyn – I'm going to caution the BOS to be very careful because the Firefighters contract has not been settled. Chief Sammon explained the manning levels at the Fire Station. Mr. Triantaffelow – We can't afford to cut the services. I'm going to stop talking because I'm getting upset. Good Luck to John & Larry. Thank you Larry for the refrigerator. Mr. Ryan – Just trying to keep you cool Andy.

Motion: Mr. Chaffee to adjourn meeting at 9:06PM

Second: Mr. Pratt

Vote: 5-0 Mr. Llewellyn-yes, Mr. Chaffee-yes, Mr. Pratt-yes

Mr. Valanzola – yes

LAWRENCE J. CHAFFEE
VICE-CHAIRMAN

BRADLEY A. PLANTE
TOWN ADMINISTRATOR